

April 2010

Member of:
Desert Empire District,
California Garden Clubs,
Inc., Pacific Region,
and National Garden
Clubs, Inc.

Desert Trumpet

Newsletter for
Desert Planters of
Ridgecrest,
PO Box 841
Ridgecrest CA 93556
Website:
www.desertempiredistrict.org

Officers:

- Shirley Craver
President
- LaVerne Harms
Vice-President
- Lucille Nielson
Recording Secretary
- Wanda Church
Corresponding
Secretary
- Arthur Spiegel
Treasurer
- Janet Eyre
Parliamentarian:
- LaVerne Harms
Editor
- **Contributors**
Shirley Craver, Arthur
Spiegel and L. Harms

**Desert Planters
of Ridgecrest
Charter Motto:
"Make
RIDGECREST
Clean & Green"**

The President's Corner

By Shirley Craver

THEME: *Gardener's We Are, We Plant
Our Gardens With Beauty*

Hello everyone. Remember, the meeting on April 10th is at the Immanuel Christian Center, and the program is on "NO DIG GARDENING." Bring your neighbors, friends and hubby or ? also. We had an excellent two days at the Home Show. We could have used more baked goods and plants. Seems like it's always the same people who contribute at these affairs, but that's okay, as others make up for not being at that occasion by helping some where else.

We have a great membership, and I'm happy to say we did acquire one or two more members at the Home Show.

Almost half of our success at the Home Show sale was from baked goods.

However, we DID SELL lots of plants too. We grossed \$452.

I want to thank Lucille Nielson, LaVerne Harms, Arthur Spiegel, Rozella Eyre, Wanda Church and Judy Spiegel for all the hours they sat and froze to death at the booth that weekend. Some of us are suffering with colds.... Thank you to everyone who brought baked items and to the folks who gave us plants. Renee Oliver gave

me a car load of plants and they all sold. Dorothy Roton brought us herb plants that sold quickly. Penelope LePome donated boxes of various cactus pads and the use of her handy tongs. Rozella Eyre not only baked but also brought plants, (the corkscrew willows did not last long) and she worked the booth as did Wanda Church. Charlie Shockley baked delicious cookies. Lucille Nielson made fudge, cookies, and she was the cashier on Saturday. Hanna Labiosa, a friend of our president, made a beautiful banner to hang up in our booth.

May 1, 10 AM—Noon, we are co-hosts for the *2010 Spring Xeriscape Workshop* at the Historical USO Building where we are going to have a plant booth set up. Pot up your plants in plastic gallon size containers (or larger). Identify the plant with the plant name on a marker (ice cream bar sticks

work well.) We need all the plants and baked goods you can prepare. Please put baked items, for example, sugar cookies, fudge, etc., in plastic bags that can be sealed and marked with the name of the item on the bag.

Also, the membership will vote for officers for the coming years 2010—2011. So far, there
(Continued on page 3)



**Plant Sale—May 1st
2010 Spring Xeriscape Workshop
at the Historic USO Building.
Continue to pot up your plants in
gallon size containers.**

- April 10 **DPR Monthly Meeting, 1 P.M.** — Immanuel Christian Center, 1201 N. China Lake Blvd.
- Speaker:** Karla Christiansen. At this meeting Karla will talk about ***No Dig Gardening in Ridgecrest.***
- Horticulture Grow & Show by: All members please bring plant cuttings from your garden.
 - Door Prizes awarded, come and be the lucky winner.
 - Hosts: Gerry Wisdom, Arthur & Judy Spiegel
- April 13 **Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon,**
2nd Tuesday, 12:00 noon at Victoria's at the Heritage. (In courtyard at Heritage Inn). RSVP 375-8331. DPR is a member.
- April 17 **Oasis Garden Club of IWV Annual Garden Tour 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.**
- April 22 **Earth Day—Meet at Cerro Coso Jr. College 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. for an Earth Day Celebration.** DPR will have a table set up with plants, Month by Month Garden Books and garden hats for sale. Food is available, bring your own bowl and silverware.
- April 27 **DPR Business Meeting is the 4th Tuesday. 1 P.M.** Meet at Lucille Nielson's home. **All members welcome.**
- April 30 **National Arbor Day**
- May 1 **Plant Sale** at the ***2010 Spring Xeriscape Workshop.*** Setup at 8 A.M. Conference starts at 10 A.M.—Noon at the Historical USO Building, Ridgecrest Blvd. Sponsor: IWV Water District. Co-Host Desert Planters of Ridgecrest. Special guest R. Steve Miller, Landscape Architect, Native Plant Expert and Master Gardener Program Educator. Reservation required for the conference. Contact: IWV Water District Coordinator Lucinda Sue Crosby at 760 384-5518.
- May 8 **DPR Anniversary Luncheon and meeting, 12 Noon** — Grape Leaf Restaurant, 901 N. Heritage Drive, Ridgecrest.
- Kathleen Pratt Plant Dedication** of the Valentine Emu Bush in the Agnes Merrick Garden at the Maturango Museum. — Date TBD
-

Desert Planters of Ridgecrest,
P. O. Box 841, Ridgecrest CA 93556-0841
Yearly dues \$25, Family \$35.

IRS Non-Profit Group Exemption Number: 5358

USDA Zone 8/9; Sunset Zone 10/11

(Continued from page 1)

no new candidates other than the present sitting officers. Nominations for offices can come from the floor at the next meeting.

The budget committee has been named and will meet in April, with the resultant proposed budget being presented to the general membership for approval at the May 8th, 2010 meeting.

We would love to have some of you young people step up to the plate and become an officer.

My sincerest best wishes to everyone, and I hope the Easter Bunny brought you lots of eggs and chocolate bunnies.

Sincerely, Mrs. S. B. Craver, Sr.

Membership Renewals are Due at this Time:

According to our By-Laws, membership dues are due in April and delinquent after June 1st. Annual dues are \$25.00 for individual members and \$35.00 for family memberships. A portion of each member's dues is in turn sent by Desert Planters to the state organization (CGCI), to the district (Desert Empire District), and for liability insurance. (Bylaws, Article IV Dues and Finance.)

Life Membership:

The committee selected a deserving member for a *Life Membership* that will be presented at the May Annual Meeting and luncheon at the Grape Leaf Restaurant. CGCI uses these funds for several scholarship awards each year.

New Member:

We are delighted to introduce our newest member Barbara Lamberth, whom we met at the Home and Leisure Show in March.

Thank You: Shirley Craver for the delicious cookies, and LaVerne Harms for providing drinks at the March meeting. Also thanks to Dorothy Roton for providing the blooming geraniums and bulbs for door prizes.

Desert Empire District Fund Raiser:

"It has been decided that the Desert Empire District needs to have a fund raiser. Our funds are low. Please send any ideas you may have for a fund raiser, and a brief synopsis if you would like, to Sandy Nagel at naglee@verizon.net. We must be able to produce the

item for a reasonable sum of money, to be sold at a profit to the district. The deadline for submitting suggestions is May 5. The suggestions received will be discussed at the May 17 DED Annual Meeting held at United Methodist Church at 639 N. Norma St., Ridgecrest." Sincerely, Sandy Nagel, DED Fund Raiser Chairman.

April in your Garden:

Ground covers are a good substitutes for water thirsty grass with less demand for water and maintenance. Dichondra does well in shady areas planted under rose bushes and other types of bush plants. It will help keep the weeds out and keep the ground moist. Lippia works just as well.

"Other types of taller-growing ground covers give an excellent landscape effects and are quite drought tolerant. Some of the most satisfactory ground covers that can be planted now are: coyote bush, creeping junipers, trailing rosemary, gazanias, ice plants, santolina, creeping potentilla, prostrate cotoneasters and lantanas. Many herbs make delightful growing and trailing mats for ground cover: silvery absinthe, Dittany of Crete, aromatic oregano, varieties of thyme and mint."

We planted a large patch of about 50 coyote bushes in the front of the house when we moved in and made the mistake of adding bone meal with each plant. The next morning when we went out to check the plants, they were all pulled up by the dog who feasted on the bone meal. I have never used bone meal again. Another good ground cover here in the desert is Vinca Minor, but it can become invasive especially in other parts of the country, but is quite controllable in the desert.

April weather is the best planting time of the year for many vegetables, annuals and perennials.

"Establish a new perennial in the flower garden. Consider the vigorous Mexican primrose with its profusion of satiny pink blossoms, yarrow with flat heads of golden flowers, columbines for a shady spot, dainty coral bells or silvery leafed bush morning glory, a drought tolerant plant, with pinkish-white blossoms..."

Quotes from *Month by Month Gardening* by Evelyn Calaway and Revised by Kathleen Pratt. Published by

- CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. (CGCI) State Garden Club information www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org.
- PACIFIC REGION www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org
- NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. for National Garden Club information—www.GardenClub.org.
- Desert Empire District (DED). To download the *Desert Trumpet*—www.DesertEmpireDistrict.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS
CGCI, NGC, DED

April 20-21, 2010 CGCI Gardening Study School, Series 21, Course II, Loomis. Sponsor: Golden Foothills District. Chairman: Patsy Jeffery

April 22-24, 2010 66th Annual Pacific Region Convention, Spokane, WA.

May 17, 2010 9:30 AM, Desert Empire District Annual Spring Meeting. Host: Desert Planters of Ridgecrest. United Methodist Church, 639 N. Norma Street, Ridgecrest.

June 4 – 7, 2010, CGCI 79th Convention, Westlake Village. Sponsor: Channel Islands Dist

June 14, 2010 Desert Empire District Post Convention. Desert Empire Fair Grounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest. Host: Oasis Garden Club of IWV.